

St. George's Spearhead: to parish, neighbor, and world

St. George's Anglican Church - a CANA Parish
56 Main Street, Helmetta, New Jersey 08828

New Year 2011
Volume 492

THE LIVING WORD

If someone asked you what makes Christianity unique, consider the opening verses of the letter to the Hebrews. "In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us through His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the universe."

What has God been speaking to you through His Son? Since the whole universe was made through Him, it is not surprising that everything around you can be a messenger of His will. The beautiful order of nature and the flow of the seasons tells us about His consistency and limitless creativity. The instinctive need of human beings to love and be loved points us to His very nature, for God is love. As human beings, we have the image of God built into us, but it has been marred by something we call "sin." To live in a fallen world, populated by creatures who have the image of God within them and yet are manipulated by sin, this is a great challenge.

Oswald Chambers offers this observation about the human condition. "It is astounding how ignorant we are about ourselves! We don't even recognize the envy, laziness, or pride within us when we see it. But Jesus will reveal to us everything we have held within ourselves before His grace began to work.

How many of us have learned to look inwardly with courage?"

During Epiphany we focus on the appearing of Jesus. The Gospel readings are all about His person, and power. We review our understanding of exactly who He is to us, and the world He created.

In Lent we turn to look at ourselves. It is a time to examine our hearts, and as Chambers says, "look inwardly with courage." That courage comes from our relationship with Him. Before we can face the reality of ourselves, we must know the loving power that made us. Knowing that, we have strength to face anything that needs to be faced because we know we do not face it alone. He came to take our nature upon Himself, and to make it possible for the whole image of God to be restored in us.

Come, Holy Spirit, and speak the Living Word into our hearts, that we may see Him more clearly, love Him more dearly, and follow Him more nearly, day by day

Fr. Bill



The mission of St. George's Church is to know Christ as our Lord and Savior, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, to love Him, serve Him, and witness His love to the world.

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Rector: The Rev. William R. Guerard
Administrator: Kristen Tabert
Editor: Kathryn Hackett-Fields

St. George's Vestry:

Wardens:

2010: Barbara Raczynski – Senior Warden
2011: Steve Bauman– Junior Warden

Vestry:

2010: Bob Seyfried, Bob Richards
2011: Jim Charlton, George Bilyeu, Douglas Wilson
2012: Bruce Eckman, Doug Miles., Chris Palmer

Treasurer: Jan Kwiatkowski

Vestry Clerk: Bev Bauman

Parish Prayer Cycle

Pray each day for revival in the parish, the community, the nation, the world.

Monday: Parish Staff, (Rector, Parish Administrator, Choir Director, Sexton), Vestry, Treasurer

Parish Directory: Albergo-Briggs

Tuesday: The Sunday School, Youth Ministry, Youth Directors, Teachers, Helpers, Nursery and Parents.

Parish Directory: Capobianco-Gomez

Wednesday: Outreach, Evangelism, Alpha, Hospitality Activities, Newcomers Committee, Communications.

Parish Directory: Gray-Lackey

Thursday: Pastoral Care, Prayer Chain, Order of St. Luke, Interfaith Network of Care, Alcoholism Counseling, AA Group, Al-Anon Group, South County Day Care and Prison Ministry.

Parish Directory: Lashomb-Ogden

Friday: Stewardship, Finance, Property, Scholarship Committee, Publicity, use and care of earth's resources.

Parish Directory: Palmer-Simonelli

Saturday: Worship leaders, Choir, Praise Band, Musicians, Lectors, Chalice Bearers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Servers, Altar Guild, Ushers, and Greeters.

Parish Directory: Smith-Wilson

Sunday: Come and Worship!



HOW TO SPREAD THE WAY *by Deacon Greg Ventura*

A while back Fr. Bill talked about membership and discipleship. The typical church has a set of rules that defines membership. He referred to this idea as a 'bounded set.' What the early church did was focus on making disciples. This is referred to as a centered set, because our focus is on a person as

opposed to some rules. So that is our goal and it has not really changed from the Great Commission.

Matthew 28:19-20 (*New International Version*)

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

If Christianity is a centered set, then the person that we are to be focused on is Jesus. We are to teach people everything that he has taught us. We should not just hang around here, but reach out to the other nations by sending missionaries or being missionaries. We need to spread the Word of God.

With that in mind, I would like to tell you about a song that in its own way, spreads the truth of Jesus. It is called, "Spread the Way (Galilee Beach Boys)" by my favorite band Apologetix. It is a parody of "Drift Away" performed by Uncle Kracker & Doby Gray and written by Mentor Williams.

*Day after day my Lord comes through
Still it looks more than likely that more'll be slain
You know after James died my faith was bruised
And I'm feelin' the pain - but I ain't gonna change*

*Jimmy and me, Lord, me and my bro
You wanted apostles to walk the road and spread the Way
Galilee Beach Boys, that's me and my bro
We counted the cost and we rocked the boat and left the lake
Why'd You take him away?*

The first verse is pretty harsh (see Acts 12:1-3), but we know that other than John who was exiled to the island of Patmos, all of the original disciples were martyred for their faith. Fortunately, here in the United States we have freedom of religion, so we should not have to worry about that. The second verse is the chorus, which I really like. The original music was always a feel good song. The original lyrics were even quasi-spiritual with lines like:

*"Oh, give me the beat boys and free my soul
I wanna get lost in your rock n roll And drift away"*

So what would you rather do? While it is fun to relax and "drift away" at times, the higher calling is to "spread the way." So how can you do that in your everyday life? I was fortunate recently that I managed to go to two different books sales at libraries. One was in Somerville and the other was in my home town of Franklin. In both cases, I decided to look in the religion section. I have seen many good books and depending on what your local library stocks, you might find some really good deals. I was able to pick up three bibles for a mere fraction of what they would cost otherwise. I hope to find good homes for them. I also found two other religious books one of which I have already passed on. Some of these books were hard cover no less.

I just use this as an illustration of a way to spread the way. It does not take much to spread the news. Remember that it is not our job to convert people. The Holy Spirit will work in their lives and do that. Our job is just to fulfill the Great Commission. Our job is to be ready when the opportunity presents itself. That however, is not a free license to say, 'Well I did not hear God speaking to me audibly therefore he is not calling me.' You have to pray about this. What is God's gift to you? Use that gift to win others for God. Do you like to cook? Maybe by cooking you can win some souls? A gift of food to someone even if they are not in need is an excellent way of showing God's love to people. If they want to repay you remind them that they cannot buy God's love and therefore they cannot buy your gift.

In your own way, you too can be a Galilee Beach Boy or Girl and spread the way!

WINTER

The Shoestring Philanthropist

by Linda Arking

Edited by Kathryn Hackett-Fields

For 22 years Marc Gold has trekked through Asia handing out money to the needy in small amounts, and rarely exceeding \$500. The impact is big. In Vietnam, a modest donation was enough for a widow to buy a sewing machine and start a business. In Indonesia, a fisherman fixed his boat and return to self-sufficiency.

Gold's operation is tiny, but by his own estimate, he has touched over 50,000 lives. An energetic cross between Santa Claus and Johnny Appleseed, Gold, 61, spends four months a year raising funds in friends' living rooms and the rest on the road finding individuals to help. I thought you had to be wealthy to do such things as completely change peoples' lives.

Today his donors – through his nonprofit, 100 Friends – exceed 4000. His mantra is simple: "You give it to me, and I give it to them."

Five years ago, Gold pared down his belongings to a few duffel bags and boxes. Formerly a teacher in San Francisco, he works out of a Bangkok hotel room and lives off retirement savings and a modest pension.

When he meets someone in trouble, Gold sits down to chat and maybe share a cup of tea. Mostly, he listens. He has a knack for spotting people who aren't on the radar of the large aid groups. In Tibet, he saw a girl struggling with a large cart, which held her paralyzed mother. Thanks to him, the mother has a wheelchair and the daughter goes to school.

"Someone once asked me if I was playing God," Gold says. "The people I help don't ask questions like that. They only know a stranger is willing to help them".



Ladies Tea at A Stroke of Creativity

Jan Kwiatkowski

Combining the thought of doing something different along with supporting a parish-family owned business, the 2011 Ladies Tea is planned for Sunday, February 27, 2011, beginning at 1 PM. The venue will be *A Stroke of Creativity*, the business owned by Bob and Patty Lang. The shop will be opened exclusively for the Ladies Tea.

The cost to the women attending is \$5.00 (a 38% reduced studio fee which covers the cost of paints, glazing, firing, and all other supplies). The women would also be responsible for the cost of whatever ceramic piece they wish to paint. Ceramic pieces may be purchased for a low as \$5.00.

As we typically do, the women will bring the food contributions for the tea. Watch the Sunday Bulletin for additional details.

BLESSINGS

It is a week before Christmas and I am sitting in my comfort chair, counting the many blessings I have received during this Christmas season, and I am overwhelmed to the brim. Here's why:

In the last week of October, our boss gathered us all together in the office, and gave us the grim news that the company was closing its office and maintenance yard in NJ. We were all expecting this move to NC, but we didn't know when. He was sincerely solemn. So five of us knew we'd be unemployed as of January 1st. For me it was a "three strikes, you're out" at bat. Some of you may know that I live where I work, drive a company car, had utilities provided and was caretaker of the maintenance yard. I ran business errands and filled in when others were out.

As I write, it is December 19th. I was devastated and scared by what was facing me. Then I remembered one of Fr. Bill's sermons on being afraid, and thought, "Get away from me, Satan!" Then I mentally rolled up my sleeves, took a deep breath and got cracking with this thought in mind: *I know you will get me through this, Lord. You have always been with me even before I knew You. I know now from looking back on past experience.*

The week before Dominic told us the bad news, I had a sudden and strong urge to buy a car – it's time. So I called upon a long time family friend, a professional mechanic and owner of a trucking company. He showed me a car for sale, lightly used and clean – even from underneath! Why had I been called to do this at that time? God knows, but my friend George is the first blessing – there would be 2 more.

In the first week of November, I got into my "new" car and started applying for an apartment but they all turned me down due to low income. Now I'm stressed out, but not afraid. So! I put the word out among friends, and a couple of days later was contacted by Rhonda and Wayne, who lived in an apartment complex. I had one more income hurdle but that was crossed by my friends' referral and we struck a leasing deal that I could handle. Blessing #2!

Now, onward and upward toward moving my things. I must share that I really shy away from being a "burden" to others, but instead I tried praying over an offer of help from Fr. Bill after I talked with him about the situation. God asked me

questions about my attitude – was I being too proud or independent as a show, when I really did need help? Humble yourself, He gently instructed me, and your experience will make you stronger for others.

So! I called Fr. Bill and although the date was over Thanksgiving weekend, there was no barrier; he reassured me it would work out. Moving Day was frigid and windy so I made lots of coffee and some muffins. When I saw the cars of helpers pulling up in the driveway, it was hard to hold back the tears of gratitude and joy. The helpers were pleased with the ground-floor apartment, and within hours I was all moved into my new home. The third blessing that resolved that big, scary dilemma, step by step. Thank you, Moving Crew!

In January, I will begin the process of looking for work and taking care of financial things as best as I can, knowing more deeply the God is always with me, and life works out as each day He gives us unfolds.

~Vicki Mascarella

In stories and poems, we see the variety of God's gifts. We also see the variety of ways that Satan tries to break our hearts and make us forget the power we can always call upon. While we at St. George's parish begin to digest the "bad" news we received about Fr. Bill's planned changes for his and his family's life, let us begin anew from the platform of FAITH. Life is full of occasions for grief, and we deny grieving at our emotional peril. But then, open your own store of memories of the blessings *you* have received from these Godly people. It's just life – time is that ever-rolling stream that moves as it will. Open your heart to the memories, the lessons, the friendships that can never cease until we choose to let go, and keep the Guerards in your prayers.

Then go on your way rejoicing that God feels our church – and We Are the Church – is ready to deploy our Spiritual gifts to craft the community that we will become next. The door stands open! Christ is the head of this house – and I pray God's strength upon myself, and all of us, to stay together and be focused for the important tasks ahead. We have everything we need to ready our church and our hearts to receive the next priest that God is preparing for St. George's Anglican Church. All we need to do is watch and pray.

~Kathryn

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

JANUARY

- 17 Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm
- 23 Annual Parish Meeting
- 28 Private Party 5 pm – 10 pm [EH]
- 29 Private Party [EH]

FEBRUARY

- 10 Vestry Reports due
- 12 Private Event
- 21 President's Day
- 21 Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm
- 27 Ladies' Tea – A Stroke of Creativity

MARCH

- 4 World Day of Prayer
- 9 **Ash Wednesday**
- 10 Vestry Reports due
- 12 Boro of Helmetta 55+ luncheon [EH]
- 13 Daylight Savings begins
- 21 Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sundays:

Holy Eucharist 8:00 & 10:00 am
Coffee Hour following both morning services

Tuesdays:

Discipleship Group 1 pm
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) 8:00 pm

Wednesdays:

Men's Discipleship Group 8:30 am {Panera's}
Women's Bible Study 10 am
Discipleship Group [Smith's] 7:30 pm

Thursdays:

Serenity Seekers (Al-Anon) 1:00 pm
AA Step Meeting 7:00 pm
Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Praise Band Practice 8:00 pm

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB SITE FOR OTHER IMPORTANT DATES AT WWW.STGEORGESHELMETTA.ORG.



Love Letters

by Kit Rockwell

SNOW MELT

Dear Lord

As the snow begins to melt, the little brook at the foot of the ravine sparkles with the new wealth of water, and merrily sings its way to the bay.

Just as icicles melt one drop at a time, melt my cold heart, Lord, so I may serve you, and fill my days with giving of myself to you in small ways.

May the sun of your love release me from the icy grip of self love. Let me flow gently though the lives around me, carrying your love to them. Just as the sun on the ice sparkles and spangles it into many jewel like colors of gold, ruby and emerald, so let me bring to impoverished souls the wealth of your graces.

Of myself I have nothing, but as your channel I have everything.

Thank you, Lord.

Love,
Kit



**Daylight Savings
Sunday, March 13,
2:00 AM**

No Tongues of Fire

Marie Grant

There were no tongues of fire, no blazing lights, no strong winds blowing, no crashing cymbals when the Holy Spirit came to me.

Others have felt the fire, have seen the lights, and have heard the wind. Others have felt the earth shake beneath their feet.

Not I. I have been denied this exultation. I have not been moved to tremulous tears. I have not danced the wild dance, not sung the lilting song. I felt cheated.

I prayed a peevish prayer, and asked shy I had not scaled the heights.

My answer came in the quiet of a pearly dawn. He hadn't come to me on the mountain, with fanfare, but in the valley, softly. He brushed my soul and left an everlasting peace.



Did You Know...???

Is there a theme for each stained glass window in church? In 1969, Rambusch, the company who has installed at least three of our windows, submitted a thematic scheme. Facing the altar and beginning on the pulpit side from front to back, the themes are Creation, Birth of Christ, Miracles of Christ, Suffering and Death of Christ, and Resurrection of Christ. On the lector side beginning at the front the themes are Jerusalem – City of God, Cybernetic – Space Age, Urban, and Rural Communities.

Three windows were added between July 1970 and December 1971. The first to be installed was Suffering and Death of Christ. The left side of the window depicts Simon helping Christ. The right side is Mary at the tomb and the key subject in the triangular top is of Christ's crucifixion.

Miracles of Christ and Resurrection and Glory of Christ were added next. Miracles of Christ depicts the changing of water to wine at Cana, Christ healing the sick, and the top triangle suggests Christ walking on water. Resurrection and Glory of Christ shows the Ascension, Pentecost and Christ in Glory – enthroned, the Alpha and the Omega.

The most recent addition is the Creation window – a gift from one of our families.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the following who supported our Sunday morning Coffee Ministry from mid-November through early January: Jose Gomez, Bob Seyfried, Walter Wilson, Jan Kwiatkowski, John Moran, Bruce Eckman, Bettie Linke, Melissa & George Bilyeu, Cindy Weiler, Carmen Patrick, Nancy Alston, Kathryn Hackett-Fields & Roger Fields.

If you haven't hosted the Coffee Ministry for a while, or have never done so, please consider adding your name to the Coffee Ministry flipchart in Ericson Hall. On the bottom of the flipchart are copies of an easy-to-follow, step-by-step guide for 'what to do' for the Coffee Ministry. There's a guide for 8AM as well as a guide for 10AM.

Should you have any questions about the Ministry, please speak with any of the folks named above.

Helping Each Other Through Change

by Pastor Rick Warren

"I hope you will be patient with me"

(2 Corinthians 11:1a, NLT)

**In order to manage change,
you must remember four things –**

Love each other

The first mistake most people make during change is to focus on what they've lost, instead of what has been gained – and that creates fear. The antidote to fear is love:

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear" (1 John 4:18 NKJ)

It's impossible for love and fear to exist in the same environment – **If we'll focus on loving each other, then we'll break out of the self-centeredness that often emerges during change. The love that conquers fear involves thinking about others instead of focusing on your own needs – and the more you love, the less you fear.**

Listen to each other

During transition, we must be **"quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry"** (James 1:19 NIV) If we get the first two right (quick listening, slow speaking), then the third (slow anger) will become automatic. It **reflects the concept of "seeking to understand" before trying "to be understood."**

"Post this at all the intersections, dear friends: Lead with your ears, follow up with your tongue, and let anger straggle along in the rear." (James 1:19 MSG)

Level with each other

We must speak the truth in love to each other if we're going to walk together through change. **It is human nature to avoid confronting someone directly, but then we fall into problems – even gossip – by talking to other people about the person we need to confront.**

We can't get close to each other until we deal honestly with our fundamental differences.

"Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ." (Ephesians 4:15 NIV)

Liberate each other

Finally, we need to show each other grace – **"cut each other some slack"** – during transition. **Liberating each other means letting go and treating someone else the same way Jesus treats you.**

In other words, we shouldn't lean into legalism or lording mistakes over others. **People will make mistakes, and our response should be to recognize that these things will happen. The goal is not to make those who make mistakes feel bad, but rather to let them get over it and move on.**

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Please remember to visit our web site at www.stgeorghelmetta.org to:

- * See all of our upcoming events
- * See pictures from past events.
- * Hear weekly sermons
- * See what ministries we have to offer
- * Learn more about our parish



Women's Retreat

April 8-10, 2011

Planning for the annual Women's retreat is well underway. The women of St. George's are looking forward to once again joining together for fun, relaxation, laughter, praise and growing in the Lord. Reservations have been made at Grove Hall in peaceful Ocean Grove, Friday evening April 8 through Sunday brunch, April 10.

Our retreat this year finds us in the midst of the Lenten season, therefore our theme will focus on "The Way of the Cross." A team-teaching approach is planned and topics will include the Stations of the Cross as well as a discussion on the lives of Mary, Mother of God and Mary Magdalene.

We were fortunate to be able to keep our costs in line with last year. The per person cost includes 2 nights of lodging, 2 breakfasts, Saturday dinner and Sunday lunch:

<u>Occupancy</u>	<u>With Bath</u>	<u>No Bath</u>
Single	\$185	\$155
Double	\$115	\$100

There are only 5 rooms with bathrooms (2 on the 2nd floor and 3 on the 3rd floor). Sign up will begin at the Annual Parish Meeting scheduled to take place on Sunday, January 23rd, so be sure to register early if you want a room with bath.

While many helping hands are already at work, help is still needed with the coordination of snacks, and we need a Worship leader for Sunday Morning Prayer. Please contact Jan Kwiatkowski if you are able to help in either of these areas.

We are looking forward to a Blessed and spiritually rewarding retreat!



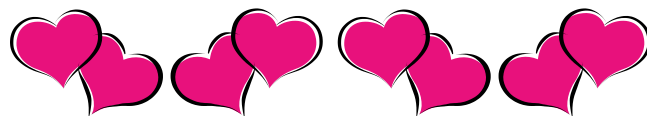
Heart to Heart

I would like to express my thanks to all Acolytes for their service and to our new members who have chosen to serve in this way.

New Members are: Tim Miles, Jack Lang, Luke Altamura and Tabitha Ventura as Taperers, Rich Capobianco as Crucifer and Dave Altamura, Anthony Lang, Colin Lang and Tabitha Ventura as Servers.

Anybody interested in serving as an Acolyte, please contact me at home [732] 608-6213 or my cell number [732] 513-1224

Faithfully,
Ted Alslev



PLEASE JOIN US IN THANKING KATHRYN HACKETT-FIELDS FOR HER SERVICE AS SEXTON TO THE PARISH. KATHRYN WILL BE TURNING OVER THE REINS AT THE END OF THIS MONTH.

WE WELCOME CHRIS OPINSKI AS OUR NEW SEXTON. CHRIS HAS YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AS A CUSTODIAN AND IS CURRENTLY CO-OWNER OF CURVES IN SPOTSWOOD.

HE IS A LIFE-LONG RESIDENT OF HELMETTA AND IS EXCITED TO BE JOINING US.

